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Docket No. F-8812

Ser. No. 10/552,752

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1 - 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended)) Sterilization testing apparatus comprising a housing including a testing chamber having a base portion, a supply line for supplying a sterilizing medium to the testing chamber, at least one indicator located in at least the testing chamber for indicating completion of sterilization, the housing being comprised of an assembly of first and second superimposed housing parts fabricated of metal, injection-moldable plastic, or both, the supply line being comprised of a channel located between a sidewall of the first housing part and at least one ridge positioned on the interior of the first housing part, the sidewall being located at an outer side of the first housing part, the channel providing a flowpath for a sterilizing medium defined by the sidewall and the at least one ridge, the channel ~~extending over substantially the entire surface of the first housing part, covering substantially all of the surface area, including the length and width of the first member of the testing apparatus~~ but for a surface portion of the first housing part[, ] comprising the testing chamber, an opening provided on the outside of the first housing part communicating with the channel for introducing a sterilizing medium to the housing from a sterilizing medium source located outside the housing, the channel communicating with the testing

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chamber at a channel end opposite the opening in the first housing part, whereby a sterilizing medium that enters the housing through the opening travels directly to the testing chamber via the channel, wherein the channel has a length that, relative to a cross-section thereof, is sufficiently great to impede complete deaeration of the supply line during sterilization.

26 -27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) Sterilization testing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the indicator is a single indicator which extends over the entire length of the channel.

29. (Previously Presented) Sterilization apparatus according to claim 25, wherein a plurality of indicators are distributed over the entire length of the channel.

30. (Previously Presented) Sterilization testing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein, apart from the opening, the housing is hermetically sealed.

31. (Previously Presented) Sterilization testing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the channel is of square or rectangular cross-section.

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32. (Previously Presented) Sterilization testing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the channel provides a spiral or meandering flowpath.

33. (Previously Presented) Sterilization testing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the first and second housing parts are fixedly secured together.

34. (Previously Presented) Sterilization testing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein a plurality of ridges is formed on the first housing part, and the second housing part is provided with a flat surface on a side facing the first housing part.

35. (Previously Presented) Sterilization testing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the second housing part comprises a transparent material providing visual inspection of the indicator without opening the housing.

36. (Previously Presented) Sterilization testing apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising a breaking line, along which the first and second housing parts are manually breakable to provide access to the indicator.

37. (Previously Presented) Sterilization testing apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising a least one tear strip in the at least one of the first and second housing parts, whereby tearing away of the tear strip provides access to the indicator.

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38. (Previously Presented) Sterilization testing apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising a second opening provided in the second housing part for accessing the indicator, the second opening being provided with an openable closure positioned over the second opening.

39. (Previously Presented) Sterilization testing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the closure comprises a film for re-closing the second opening.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously Presented) Sterilization testing apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising a scale applied to at least one of the first and second housing parts.

43. (Previously Presented) Sterilization testing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the housing is comprised of an assembly of first, second, and third superimposed housing parts in which at least the second housing part is provided with a channel that is superimposed and in communication with the channel of the first housing part.

44. (Previously Presented) Sterilization testing apparatus according to

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claim 25, wherein the first and second housing parts are detachable from each other and further comprising a seal positioned between the first and second housing parts that seals the channel off from the external environment.

45. (Previously Presented) Sterilization testing apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the seal comprises a mat.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously Presented) Sterilization testing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the first and second housing parts comprise at least one injection molded plastic having a heat resistance of at least 121° C.

48. (Currently Amended) A sterilization testing apparatus comprising:  
a housing including a testing chamber having a base portion;  
a supply line for delivering a sterilizing medium to the testing chamber;  
at least one indicator located in at least the testing chamber for indicating completion of sterilization; wherein

the housing comprising separate first and second superimposed housing parts fabricated of metal, injection-molded plastic having a heat resistance of at least 121° C, or both, which first and second housing parts do not share a common edge or surface prior to being superimposed, and wherein upon superimposing the first and second housing parts, the first and second housing parts share an edge at

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a housing perimeter;

the supply line ~~[[is]]~~ being comprised of a channel located between a sidewall provided on an outer side of the first housing part and at least one inwardly facing ridge provided on the second housing part, the channel having an opening at one end thereof communicating with the testing chamber and an opening at the other end thereof for communicating with a source of the sterilizing medium outside the housing and wherein a sterilization medium that enters the housing through the opening travels directly to the testing chamber via the channel, which channel covers substantially all of the surface area, including the length and width of the first member of the testing apparatus, but for a surface portion of the first housing part comprising the testing chamber.

49. (Previously Presented) Sterilization testing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the second housing part is box-shaped, having an open side positioned between a top surface and a bottom surface of the second housing part, the first housing part being inserted into the second housing part through the open side, whereby the first housing part is retained within the second housing part, the opening of the first housing part being positioned along the open side of the second housing part, a sealing mat positioned between a top surface of the first housing part and a bottom of the top surface of the second housing part, whereby the mat provides a seal between the first and second housing parts.

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50. (Previously Presented) The sterilization testing apparatus of claim 48 wherein the first housing part is provided with at least one inwardly facing ridge, whereby the channel is positioned between the sidewall provided on the outer side of the first housing part, the at least one inwardly facing ridge provided on the second housing part, and the at least one inwardly facing ridge of the first housing part.